

Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for March 11, 2016

The meeting, chaired by Bill Louis, began at 8:30. Jesus Orduna, Thomas Strauss, Minerba Betancourt, Ed Kearns, Louise Suter, Eric Prebys, Mateus Carneiro, Robert Fine, Sebastian Aderhold, Elena Gramellini, Griselda Lopez, Brian Nord, Katie Yurkewicz, and Linda Spentzouris attended the meeting. Nigel Lockyer and Tim Meyer were also present, representing the Directorate. Breese Quinn, Harvey Newman, and Cindy Joe attended by phone.

Overview

Bill Louis gave the chair report, and ran the meeting. Preparations for the DC trip are in the final stages. There was some discussion about taking the recent video of LBNF/DUNE as an optional resource on the DC trip. There is a silent version on the web that could be narrated by the people visiting the Congressional offices. Bill provided information about it to the UEC, including the web address: <<http://vmsstreamer1.fnal.gov/OC/LBNFDUNE/index.htm>>

Travelers should make sure the rulers, the Ask (version without the logo), the page prepared by Steve Ritz, the brochure on accelerators, and the LHC brochure are in the packets when they are picked up in DC. If not, please insert these items.

The next UEC meetings are planned for April 15th, May 13th, and June 17th

Report from the Directorate

Tim Meyer reported for the Directorate. The trip to DC is timely. Since Congress seems favorably inclined, it is the right time to remind them of the importance of basic science. They have heard of LBNF/DUNE and generally support it. There are three main points of the message to Congress: (1) The LHC is a wonderful treasure, and we want to maintain strong relations with CERN. There is already support for it in the President's budget. (2) An extra \$10M is needed for LBNF/DUNE. It is needed in order to deliver on proto-DUNE, the liquid Argon pre-production experiment. CERN is partnering on this, and we cannot let a major international partner down who is providing resources to the U.S. (3) More funding for the Dark energy/Dark matter search is needed. The LZ (LUX-ZEPLIN) dark matter experiment would lose a year under the current funding profile. Overall, the top budget number

to request for HEP is \$833M, a smaller allocation will make things for our field difficult. Travelers should not get sidetracked from emphasizing this top number.

This is a record year for housing requests; oversubscription is at an all time high. The capacity cannot be increased, but it is important to have the best process for village housing assignments. New models for the process of making assignments are being evaluated against the current model. The situation has changed somewhat with a number of smaller experiments in progress rather than two large ones, so this raises the question whether the current housing process is still the appropriate method. Time limits for staying in the village should be evaluated against the need not to have any unused space. Minerba volunteered to be a representative from the UEC on the committee evaluating the housing models.

Tim again emphasized the desirability of obtaining a speaker for the User's Meeting public lecture much longer in advance of the meeting next year. The current method of securing a speaker is stressful because the process takes so long. Nigel commented that the public speaker is not giving a particle physics talk this year, and that in the future a particle physics talk would be preferable.

Report from Washington

Leland Cogliani of Lewis-Burke Associates reported on the news from Washington. The House side of Congress is focusing on trying to pass a budget resolution; some conservative Republicans do not want to support the previous year's agreement. They want to cut base programs such as Medicare in exchange for the increases in discretionary funding. The Appropriations Committee can proceed without a budget agreement, however. The final budget numbers will be out around April 15th. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz was a witness at a hearing of the Appropriations subcommittee, and there was a separate hearing with Franklin Orr (DOE Undersecretary for Science and Energy) and Cherry Murray (DOE Director of the Office of Science). There were no questions about LBNF or other specific projects from the committee. Franklin Orr highlighted LBNF as a high priority item.

All committee staff submit appropriations letters to the Appropriations

Committees describing the priorities of their members of Congress. On both the House and Senate side a letter is circulating requesting \$833M for HEP in order to move forward with P5 priorities, and requesting approval of the start of construction for LBNF. An effort is being made to get signatures on the letter. All discussions have been positive regarding HEP funding so far; there has been no push back or expression of concern about the scientific value or project management. It is a difficult budget environment; the overall budget must be flat, so any increase for HEP must be offset by a decrease in some other area. Travelers to DC should not suggest other areas in which to make cuts. The Republicans want to cut funding for the behavioral and social sciences. Travelers should not fall into the trap of commenting on the merits of other fields of science. We are not in a position to evaluate the importance of other funded research; we are only providing the best information on HEP and the status of P5 projects. Recent results from LIGO help underline the importance of supporting basic science and the investment in large-scale projects sometimes needed for discovery science. A reminder to DC travelers: gauge your audience; the committee staff is usually better informed than personal staff. Figure out how much background the staffer has in science. Remember going into your meeting that staffers have many meetings. Start off with the appropriate background. Provide clear, tangible examples to the people you are meeting. You can refer to the universities in that state, look up short bios on the staff members if possible to see how you can connect with them. These connections help them remember your visit. The number \$833M has already been broached with the Appropriations Committee, and none of the committee members have balked. They want to know why HEP is asking for \$833M, but without pushing back.

Tim joined the discussion and remarked that \$10M for proto-DUNE would allow the field to maintain the early schedule with CERN, our first international partner. This \$10M is key for keeping CERN engaged as our leading international partner. The other \$5M would move the LZ dark matter search forward. Lifting the HEP line gives DOE more flexibility; it is undesirable to cut further into research projects to support the new construction. Less funding puts our contribution to analysis of LHC data at risk, and makes it difficult to retain good faculty and students at the universities. It is important to maintain as much balance as possible while moving forward with the P5 projects.

Users Meeting Sub-Committee

Thomas Strauss reported on Users Meeting activities. An invitation email has now been sent out for the Users Meeting. Getting vendor participation in the meeting this year has broken tradition. Thirteen vendors have paid, enabling posters to be printed by Visual Media Services (VMS), and also allowing a booklet to be provided. The sub-committee has asked for input on the structure of the meeting from the division heads. Glen Crawford is coming to the meeting from the DOE. It is not yet known who will be visiting from the NSF, but Marta Cehelsky from the URA will be attending. A list of VIPs is being assembled; this will include members of the URA board, visitors from the DOE and NSF, and the local DOE folks on site. There will be no VIP dinner. Public speaker Bary C. Barish will give a talk entitled "Einstein, Black Holes, and a Cosmic Chirp". If UEC members would like a ticket to the public lecture, let Thomas know. So far, not many have registered for the poster session, although reminder emails will be sent out. The caterer has not been finalized yet.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Jesus Orduna and Louise Suter prepped people on the upcoming trip to DC to visit Congress. They offered advice and instructions, such as that travelers should make sure there is a way to contact them while they are in DC (by updating the wiki personal information with their cell phone number). The packet material for the Congressional visits was reviewed. It was noted that there are also some interesting articles in the recent issue of Symmetry magazine about things that happened last year that people could read for more information. The URA office is close to the hotel and open from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, so packets may be picked up early if desired. The kickoff meeting is there on Wednesday morning at 8:00 am, and travelers were instructed to get there half an hour earlier.

If a traveler is interested in any of the DOE or Executive Branch meetings, please let Jesus know. A meeting has been scheduled with Bill Foster at noon on Wednesday the 16th of March. All travelers to DC are welcome; people are to let Jesus know if they plan on attending. There will be a group picture on Thursday morning; please be a little early for the picture at 8:00 am in front of the U.S. Capitol Building on Congress grounds. Keys to success in the meetings are Persistence (in scheduling meetings), Preparation (for meetings), Passion, Positive attitude, Not Personal (avoid expressing political

views), and Profuse (express thanks). People should know on what committees Congress members they visit are serving.

Please make trip reports using the wiki. These can be filled in using cell phones right after a meeting; this is a good method since the meetings can be reported while still fresh in people's minds. Both secondaries and primaries are to fill out reports. When going into the Congressional buildings visitors must pass through security. It was advised to take a passport in addition to a driver's license, in case the driver's license is not considered sufficient I.D. Sometimes the lines are quite long; if so, look for another entrance with a shorter line. All the House office buildings are connected inside on the lower level, and similarly for the Senate office buildings, so any entrance will do.

Travelers to DC are reminded to keep updating their primary appointments as soon as they are made. The secondary appointments will not be known until the last minute, because they are scheduled around the primary appointments. Primaries are advised to have the phone number of their secondaries handy (and vice versa), so that they can be called if they are not there on time. There is wifi in the Congressional buildings. People can be a third member of any meetings they are interested in joining.

The number of participants to-date was reported to be 46 people.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

The Quality of Life sub-committee is continuing its efforts, but there is nothing specific that is new to report in this meeting.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association report

Rob Fine reported for the FSPA. The Directorate has appointed Griselda Lopez to be an official liaison with FSPA. Griselda and the FSPA have already started meeting. The FSPA has been spending most of their time preparing for the DC trip and working on New Perspectives.

The meeting was adjourned.

Linda Spentzouris, UEC Secretary